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2/21/03 PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: ERNST BLAHA ET AL-1 (PCT)  
PCT No.: PCT/AT01/00088 FILED: MARCH 26, 2001  
TITLE: A CARD SHUFFLER

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX PCT  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 2327  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to Examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, after the title, please insert as follows:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Applicants claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 of Austrian Application No. A 634/2000 filed April 12, 2000. Applicants also claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §120 of PCT/AT01/00088 filed March 26, 2001. The international application under PCT article 21(2) was not published in English.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 3-9 as follows:

3. (Amended) A card shuffler as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the card storage means (42) for shuffled